

III. Claim Amendments

1. (Currently amended) A system for managing the use of resources in a system where a remote client uses resources at a server for a limited duration, the system comprising:

a stored listing of at least one resource being used at the server and the remote client using that resource;

a system which identifies whether the remote client is no longer using resources at the server, including determining a combination of whether the resources have been held by the remote client cumulatively for multiple transactions for a period longer than a first preset threshold and whether the resources have been held by the remote client without use of the resources for a period longer than a second preset threshold; and

in response to the system identifying that the remote client is no longer using resources at the server, a mechanism which removes the resources which had been used by the remote client when the remote client was connected to the server, whereby the resources being used by the remote client are capable of being used by other clients after the remote client has disconnected from the server.

2. (Previously presented) A system for managing the use of resources in a system including the elements of Claim 1 wherein the system which identifies that the remote client is no longer using a resource at the server includes a mechanism for determining that the remote client is no longer connected to the server through a data transmission network.

3. (Previously presented) A system for managing the use of resources in a system including the elements of Claim 1 wherein the system which identifies that the remote client is no longer using a resource at the server includes a system for determining that the program which uses the resource has terminated.

4. (Original) A system for managing the use of a resource in a system including the elements of Claim 1 wherein the server maintains a listing of each of the clients using a resource associated with the server and the resources which are used by the respective client.

5. (Currently amended) A method of controlling the use of resources at a server by clients which are coupled to the server to use the resources, the steps of the method comprising:

identifying a client which is using the server and the resources of the server which are associated with the client;

detecting when the client is no longer using the resources of the server; and

in response to the detecting that the client is no longer using resources of the server, automatically releasing the resources at the server without further client communication which had been associated with the client;

wherein the detecting step includes determining a combination of whether the resources have been held by the remote client cumulatively for multiple transactions for a period longer than a first preset threshold and whether the resources have been held by the client without use of the resources for a period longer than a second preset threshold.

6. (Original) The method of controlling the use of resources at a server by a client including the steps of Claim 5 and further including the step of detecting that the client has become disconnected from the server.

7. (Original) The method of controlling the use of resources at a server by a client including the steps of Claim 5 and further including the step of maintaining a list of the resources being used by each client using the server.

8. (Original) The method of controlling the use of resources at a server by a client including the steps of Claim 5 wherein the method further includes maintaining a list of resources being used by a client, maintaining a record of the time when the use of the resource started and the time when the resource was last used and using the record of at least one of the times to determine whether to release the resource.

9. (Currently amended) A method of controlling use of a resource at a server by a client, the steps of the method comprising:

when a client requests use of a resource at a server, entering the identity of the client, the resource and the time into a listing of resources used;

when a client subsequently uses the resource, entering the time of last use of the resource into the resources used listing;

permitting a client to control a resource while the client is connected and using the resource; and

determining whether a client has been using a resource by determining whether the resource has been held by the client cumulatively for multiple transactions for a period longer than a preset threshold and comparing a period of last use with a present amount of allowable time and, if not, automatically releasing the resource without further client communication.

10. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for controlling the use of a resource, the program code comprising:

a module which stores a list of the resources which are being used by an identified client at a server;

a module which determines when the identified client is no longer using resources associated with the server, including determining a combination of whether the resources have been held by the remote client cumulatively for multiple transactions for a period longer than a first preset threshold and whether the resources have been held by the identified client without use of the resources for a period longer than a second preset threshold; and

a module which determines the resources used by the identified client and releases those resources in response to determining that the identified client is no longer using resources associated with the server.

11. (Previously presented) The computer program product as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the module for determining that the identified client is no longer using resources includes a mechanism for determining that the client is no longer connected to the server.